

# **Cold Springs Lehi Yesteryears By Richard Van Wagoner**

**One the earliest map of the Lehi area, drawn in 1850 by the Captain Howard Stansbury survey team, three springs are shown in the vicinity. “Large Springs” is the present Mill Pond, “Warm Springs” is Saratoga Resort, and “ Cold Springs” just west of the Jordan River, is on Allred Ranch property.**

**Ancient Native Americans most likely utilized the area for hundreds of years. The Allred family since the turn of the century have discovered dozens of Indian artifacts in the vicinity. Some are in the Hutchings Museum collection; others are in the private collection of the Wayne (Tuff) Allred family.**

**In 1854, John Conrad Naegle, (a.k.a. Naile), a German convert to Mormonism and member of the Mormon Battalion, arrived in Lehi and settled at Cold Springs. Naegle had made a substantial strike in the gold fields of California. He also had accumulated huge proceeds from the sale of a large Spanish land grant in San Jose.**

**The area surrounding Cold Springs made for excellent grazing grounds. Naegle raised cattle, horses and sheep there. He may also have planted extensive apple orchards for producing cider, a life-long passion linked to his German heritage. His family dwelling, however, was in Lehi on Block 38, near the northwest corner of Main/Second West**

**In June of 1858, as news reached Lehi and Cedar Valley that the Utah Expeditionary Force (Johnston’s Army) was moving southward, most Fairfield and Cedar Fort citizens left their homes and camped around Cold Springs. They remained on the site for several weeks until military leaders**

**convinced them they would not be harmed if they returned to their Cedar Valley homes.**

**During the 1850s and 1860s three major American transportation and communication lines ran within two miles of Cold Springs. The Pony Express Trail, Overland Trail, and the Transcontinental Telegraph line all crossed the Jordan River at Indian Ford and then coursed a south-westerly direction past the Cold Springs.**

**Tragedy struck the vicinity of Cold Springs in the summer of 1863 when Overland Stage driver Wood Reynolds and express messenger Thomas O'Shonnison (responsible for passengers, mail, and freight) met their deaths on June 10th.**

**On April 1st, a detachment of Fort Douglas soldiers under the direction of Lieutenant Ether attacked a party of Indians just north of Cedar Fort. The defeated Native Americans vowed revenge on “the men who wore the blue coats.”**

**Overland driver Frederick Scarlett left Porter Rockwell's station at the Point of the Mountain driving an empty coach to Fairfield on June 9th. Normally the coaches were ferried from Cold Springs, but the ferry boat had sunk the previous day during high winds.**

**Scarlett drove the stage farther south to the Lehi-Jordan Bridge, less than a mile from Cold Springs. Here Caroline Ball, wife of the tollkeeper, warned Scarlett that Indians had told her they were going to attack a stagecoach.**

**The nervous Scarlett drove on across the hills to Fairfield but saw nothing unusual and apparently did not report the warning to the station keeper. AT 7:00 a.m. the following morning Reynolds and O' Shonnison rolled eastward across the flats towards Lehi. As the mail coach rounded**

**the shoulder of the hill near the present Byron C. Dastrup residence (11149 West 8570 North), approximately twenty-five Indians, who had been concealed in Big Wash, ambushed the unsuspecting driver.**

**Twelve-year-old Lehi herdsman George Kirkham, atop a knoll just west of Cold Springs, witnessed the speeding coach trying to outdistance the raiders to the ferry at Indian Ford. Though the mail coach's horses were superior to the Indian ponies, three of the animals were shot--forcing the coach to stop in the high brush approximately one quarter-mile off the road.**

**Reynolds, a young tough man who had assaulted Utah Governor John W. Dawson the previous January, stood behind one of the horses and began to fire rapidly. Despite his gallant efforts, both he and O' Shonnison were quickly cut down.**

**During the carnage young George Kirkham dashed to the Jordan Bridge, gasped out the terrible occurrence, then ran to Lehi and delivered the frightful news. Meanwhile Frederick Scarlett, who was trailing two horses approximately three miles behind the Reynolds coach, had heard the gunshots and raced on ahead. He encountered massive amounts of blood on the road before seeing the coach a quarter of a mile away.**

**Presuming a runaway, Scarlett rode over to the vehicle and was stunned by what he discovered. "There lay the bodies of the two murdered men,"he reported, "one on each side of the coach--stripped naked and mutilated in a most horrid manner, pierced with balls, arrows, and spears, cut with knives and scalped in an unusual way, as the hairy part of their heads had been literally flayed." Both men also had their hearts ripped out and presumably eaten--a Gosiute custom after killing brave men in battle.**

**Seeing a horseman on a distant hill, Scarlett--fearing the Indians had returned--mounted his horse and headed back towards Fairfield. Encountering another rider en route, the two men returned to the site of the**

**carnage, where they were joined by another man. The bodies of the two Overland employees were loaded into the coach, along with all the scattered mail that could be recovered. Scarlett's two animals, hitched to the stage, conveyed the battered vehicle and the dead men to Rockwell's Station then on to Salt Lake City.**

**The Indian raiding party had ridden south, where they encountered William Ball west of Utah Lake on the road to Goshen. They had not quarrel with the bridge tollkeeper, proudly showing Ball the scalps, bugle, and other plunder from the stagecoach. They then rode south to a salt works seven miles northeast of Nephi. Richard Jenkins, Thomas Booth, and a Mr. Salisbury were there working the mine. They were not harmed, although the marauders also showed them the scalps before riding into oblivion toward the east mountains.**

**John C. Naegle retained ownership of the Cold Springs until 1865 and possibly longer. He also owned the Warm Springs near Utah Lake where Saratogas was later established. In the early 1890s, Dilbert H. and Orinda Allred obtained the Cold Springs site under the Homestead Act. A stone house was erected near the spring for the family residence.**

**In 1909, Allred and Lehi enterpreneur James B. Gardner dammed the springs on the east to create a large pond. Gardner then leased the water, planted fish and established the Uncomparhgre Trout Farm on the premises. He also obtained irrigation rights to irrigate a thousand-tree fruit orchard in the area. The water was pumped from the Cold Springs and conveyed to the orchards through a small irrigation canal.**

**After Allred died, he left the family ranch to his sons Herman, Robert, and Ray. Herman and his wife, Ada Gilchrist, built a small frame home on the Allred ranch in 1914 where they raised a family of six children. In 1937, Allred became disabled with Tularemia (rabbit fever) and was forced to move into his wife's family home in Lehi and give up the ranch.**

**After his return from World War II, Sherwin Allred bought out the Allred brothers. Sherwin lived in town and leased the ranch house to James E. Kinder, who had grown up in the area. Tragedy struck the Kinder family on June 1, 1947. Fourteen-year-old Gene Kinder and nine-year-old Richard Ramshaw were rafting on Allred Pond when their craft overturned.**

**Forty-nine-year-old Kinder, father of the older boy, heard their cries for help and jumped into the water to rescue them. During the struggle he sank beneath the water and didn't surface. Meanwhile, sixteen-year-old Bertha Kinder plunged into the water and saved both boys, but was unable to locate her father. Mrs. Kinder, unable to swim, waded into the pond in a rescue attempt, but was forced back by deep water (the pond's deepest spot is twelve feet).**

**Two of the Kinder daughters rushed to the nearby homes of E. L. Ramshaw and Matt Girot for help. When the men arrived they saw Kinder floating face down in the water. Ramshaw quickly retrieved him and was applying artificial respiration when Arthur Glover, assistant fire chief, and marshal Rod Dickerson arrived with the city resuscitator. They worked on the victim for more than an hour but were unable to revive him. It was subsequently determined that he had not drowned, but had died of a heart attack in the rescue attempt.**